Recovery signs in core sector

2538. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the core sector is showing signs of recovery;

(b) if so, the percentage of recovery, during the year 2001-2002 in comparison to previous year, industry-wise;

(c) whether it is also a fact that crude petroleum sector has shown a decline, if so to what extent;

(d) the reasons for decline in this Sector; and

(e) the time it would take to attain steady growth all over?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) and (b) The six infrastructure industries namely, Petroleum refinery products, Crude petroleum, Finished steel, Coal, Cement, and Electricity registered a growth of 3% during 2001-02 as compared to 5.1% in 2000-01. These six industries have shown recovery since beginning of the current fiscal year (2002-03). As per the latest data available, the six infrastructure industries registered a growth of 5.6 percent during April-October 2002-03 as against 2.0 percent registered during April-October 2001-02. The overall and industry-wise growth rates (%) since 2000-01 for these six infrastructure industries are mentioned below:

	2000-01	2001-02	2001-02 (Apr-Oct)	2002-03 (Apr-Oct)
Crude Petroleum	1.5	1.2	-2.3	4.5
Petroleum Refinery Products	20.3	3.8	3.1	6.4
Coal	3.5	4.2	3.2	4.6
Electricity	3.9	3.1	2.7	4.0
Cement	-0.9	7.4	3.6	9.3
Finished steel	6.5	2.5	1.6	7.3
Overall	5.1	3.0	2.0	5.6

(c) and (d) The crude petroleum sector registered a negative growth of (-) 1.2 percent during 2001-02 in comparison to a growth of 1.5 percent registered during 2000-01. Ageing of oil fields and no major oil discovery in the last decade are main reasons for decline in crude petroleum sector.

(e) The Government has taken steps to promote infrastructure development which include Prime Minister's Gram Sadak Yojana, Infrastructure Equity Fund and Accelerated Power Development Reform Programme. As a result of these initiatives, the six infrastructure industries have witnessed recovery. A rising trend in growth rates for these industries is evident since beginning of the current fiscal year (2002-03).

Tea export to Iraq

2539. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Iraq has decided to drop tea from its list of imports in the forth coming phase XII of the food for work programme;

(b) if so, in what manner it would affect the exports of Indian tea to Iraq; and

(c) the total quantity of tea exported to Iraq during the last five years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) No, Sir. On the other hand, India remains a priority supplier of tea to Iraq.

(b) Does not arise.